

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153957

USEEC

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PREL, FR

SUBJECT: EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE CALLED ON EUR ACTING  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE JUNE 15 AT FORMER'S INITIATIVE.  
MAJOR PORTION OF TOUR D'HORIZON WAS DEVOTED TO DEVELOP-  
MENTS RELATING TO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION.  
DE LABOULAYE OPENED CONVERSATION WITH OBSERVATION THAT  
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PRESIDENT HAD SPOKEN QUITE STRONGLY ABOUT THE LIFTING OF  
THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE  
14. VINE OBSERVED THAT WHITE HOUSE HAD BEEN PLAYING QUITE  
ACTIVE ROLE ON THIS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY BEGINNING ABOUT  
THE TIME OF THE NATO SUMMIT. THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION  
OF URGENCY OF THIS MATTER AND THE PRIORITY ATTACHED TO IT  
BY THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAD DEVELOPED AN EXTENSIVE

AND DETAILED CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGY. CURRENT ASSESSMENT IS THAT WE ARE REASONABLY SANGUINE OVER CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN THE SENATE WHEN THIS ISSUE GOES TO THE FLOOR THERE; THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS MORE UNCERTAIN.

2. DE LABOULAYE SAID THAT USG IS WELL AWARE OF FRENCH POSITION IN THIS AREA WHICH HE SAID IS REPRESENTED AS BEING PRO-GREEK BUT IN REALITY IS BALANCED. FRANCE

FEELS IT IS IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT KARAMANLIS IN GREECE WHERE HIS POSITION IS WEAKER THAN DESCRIBED BY USG OR BY FRANCE'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS. FRANCE UNDERSTANDS USG POSITION ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND ITS PARTICULAR CONCERNS ABOUT TURKEY AND THE DETERIORATION OF NATO'S SOUTHEASTERN FLANK. WHAT DOES USG CONSIDER A NECESSARY AND PROPER POSITION VIS-A-VIS GREECE?

3. VINE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL ASPECTS OF USG POSITION, NOTING FIRST THAT TURKEY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION IS EXTREMELY WEAK. ECEVIT'S OWN POLITICAL POSITION WAS ALSO NOT STRONG, AND WE APPRECIATE VERY WELL THAT KARAMANLIS IS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION ALSO. WE ARE TRYING TO MANAGE OUR EFFORTS SO THAT WE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE FAVORING TURKEY. VINE NOTED THAT U.S. POLICY IN THIS AREA IS EMBEDDED IN U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICS. FOR THIS  
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REASON, IT IS EXTREMELY HARD TO GET CONGRESS TO AGREE TO HELP TURKEY'S ARMED FORCES WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY IN NEED OF MODERNIZATION. U.S. HAS BEEN QUITE OPEN WITH GREECE ABOUT OUR CONCERNS, AND IN THIS CONNECTION VINE REFERRED TO EXCELLENT RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND KARAMANLIS. U.S. FOCUS IS ON FIRST LIFTING THE EMBARGO WHICH, IF ACHIEVED, WE BELIEVE WOULD GIVE ECEVIT GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN TRYING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND IN OBTAINING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. TURKISH PROPOSALS ARE ON THE TABLE; BEYOND THEM, WE ARE NOT PRIVY TO DETAILS OF THE TURKISH NEGOTIATING POSITION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER WALDHEIM HAD ADEQUATE PROPOSALS FOR RECONVENING INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS, VINE SAID WE ARE NOT CERTAIN.

4. DE LABOULAYE ASKED ABOUT KYPRIANOU'S PROPOSAL TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. VINE RESPONDED THAT USG DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE AT THIS STAGE. DE LABOULAYE OBSERVED THAT KYPRIANOU'S IDEA, AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, IS TO HAVE SOME OUTSIDE POWER, E.G., FRANCE, DRAFT AN EQUITABLE FORMULA FOR SOLVING THE CYPRUS SITUATION, AND THEN PRESENT IT

TO BOTH SIDES. THEORY IS THAT GREEK AND TURKISH SIDES WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO REACT TO OUTSIDE PROPOSALS THAN TO OFFER COMPROMISES THEMSELVES. VINE OBSERVED THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THIS AND WOULD RESENT ANY IMPOSED SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM WHICH IT BELIEVES MUST BE RESOLVED DIRECTLY BY THE TWO SIDES.

5. DE LABOULAYE OBSERVED THAT IT APPEARED THAT THE GREEKS WOULD HELP U.S. POLICY IF THEY COULD BE SURE THAT THEY WOULD SUFFER NO LOSS OF FACE OVER CYPRUS AND WOULD

HAVE SOME ASSURANCES ON AEGEAN QUESTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE REFERRED TO KARAMANLIS' PROPOSAL FOR A NONAGGRESSION PACT. VINE OBSERVED THAT USG HAS NOT  
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TAKEN A POSITION ON LATTER PROPOSAL YET, BUT IT DOES SEEM A BIT BIZARRE BETWEEN NATO ALLIES. DE LABOULAYE SAID THAT IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT WHEN U.S. DELIVERS ARMS TO ONE SIDE, TURKEY, EVEN IN NATO ALLIANCE CONTEXT, THE GREEKS NATURALLY ARE WORRIED. HAS U.S. CONSIDERED GIVING THE GREEKS SOME ASSURANCES ABOUT THE STIPULATIONS ATTACHED TO TURKEY'S USE OF THESE ARMS WHEN SUPPLIED IN THE FUTURE? VINE SAID, NO, BUT WE HAVE HAD LONG TALKS WITH ECEVIT ON THIS QUESTION. U.S. POSITION IN ANKARA IS CURRENTLY VERY DIFFICULT AND, ONCE WE GET OVER THE EMBARGO HUMP, WE BELIEVE THE GREEKS AND TURKS CAN MORE READILY WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS BILATERALLY.

6. DE LABOULAYE MENTIONED QUESTION OF EC-9 MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE, OBSERVING THAT TURKEY WOULD BE VERY NERVOUS SHOULD GREECE ENTER FULLY INTO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION AS AN EEC MEMBER. HE NOTED THAT FRANCE AND EC-9 PARTNERS ARE STUDYING AN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR EC-9 ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES SUCH AS TURKEY IN HOPE OF BALANCING POLITICAL COOPERATION ASPECT. HE NOTED THAT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN QUESTION HAD BEEN ON AGENDAS OF EC-9 COMMISSION SINCE 1974 AND COULD ONLY IMAGINE PROBLEMS OF EEC FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF CYPRUS WITH GREECE AS FULL EEC MEMBER.

7. DE LABOULAYE SUMMED UP CONVERSATION WITH OBSERVATION THAT USG SEEMS TO BET ON A VERY NARROW PATH IN ITS EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WHICH IS PREMISED ON LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY AND MODERATING SUBSEQUENT REACTIONS IN ATHENS, ALL IN HOPE THAT IN TIME GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS WILL IMPROVE. NEWSOM

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